

## Message Text

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61  
ORIGIN EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 L-03

COME-00 FRB-02 TAR-02 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 /149 R

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APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:EWKEMPE

ARA/NC/C:JMAISTO

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P 212146Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 056987

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTIES: CUT FLOWERS

REF: BOGOTA 2048

1. MINISTERS ESCOBAR AND LOPEZ-REYES OF EMBASSY,  
ACCOMPANIED BY JOHN REHM, COUNSEL TO COLOMBIAN FLOWER  
GROWERS ASSOCIATION, CALLED ON TREASURY DEPUTY ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY MARKS TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING  
DIALOGUE BETWEEN TREASURY AND COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT ON  
COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROCEEDINGS ON CUT FLOWERS.

2. IT WAS AGREED THAT COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD SEND  
DELEGATION TO WASHINGTON ON APRIL 1 TO CONDUCT  
TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS RELATIVE TO THIS CASE. EMBOFF INDICATED  
THAT DELEGATION WOULD PROBABLY CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FROM MINISTRIES OF FINANCE, FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE  
PRESIDENT'S STAFF AND THE FLOWER GROWERS ASSOCIATION, WHO  
COULD ADDRESS TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED. TREASURY CONTemplates APPROXIMATELY TWO DAYS OF MEETINGS, ALTHOUGH TIME  
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CAN BE EXTENDED IF CIRCUMSTANCES DICTATE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY'S REQUEST, MARKS INDICATED THAT COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD BE GIVEN REASONABLE PERIOD OF TIME BEYOND APRIL 8 DEADLINE TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS ON COUNTERVAILING DUTY ACTION. IT WAS FELT THAT GOC COULD ADDRESS PROBLEM MORE MEANINGFULLY, WITH WRITTEN SUBMISSION

AFTER TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE; AND THAT COLOMBIANS WERE TAKING SIGNIFICANT STEPS BY OFFERING TO HOLD TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

4. CONCERNING QUESTION IN EMBASSY'S 2048 RELATING TO INCREASE IN CUSTOMS DUTIES ON COLOMBIAN CUT FLOWERS, CUSTOMS RECENTLY DETERMINED THAT THE MERCHANDISE WAS NOT CORRECTLY VALUED FOR DUTY ASSESSMENT PURPOSES. IN THE CASE OF CARNATIONS, WHICH IS PRINCIPAL FLOWER EXPORTED FROM COLOMBIA, VALUE FOR CUSTOMS PURPOSES HAS INCREASED FROM 3 CENTS TO 7 CENTS PER FLOWER. THIS ISSUE IS ENTIRELY UNRELATED TO COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** ETRD, CO, (ESCOBAR), (LOPEZ REYES), (REHM, JOHN)  
**To:** BOGOTA  
**Type:** TE  
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